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WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX FOR JAN TOUCHES 2.03%

An uptick in demand for manufactured items after resumption in economic activities in September last pushing prices up, say data

MANUFACTURED ITEMS INFLATION AT 5.13%

Inflation in manufactured items, accounting for 65% weight in WPI, stood at 5.13% compared to 4.24% in Dec. This grouping comprises 22 bands, of which 18 like furniture, motor vehicles, machinery saw prices rising. Data show prices of food items dropped in Jan at (-) 2.8% while prices of non-food articles rose by 4.16%. Together, they account for 20% weight in WPI

ANALYSTS EXPECT BIG WPI JUMP IN FY21

- Fuel and power index (15% weight) contracted 4.78% in January
- Analysts say a deeper disinflation in primary food articles helped cushion the impact of the sharp rise in core inflation, but warned headline WPI inflation will record large upticks over the course of the next few months and hover around 5-5.5 per cent in FY2021

4.06%

RBI'S RETAIL INFLATION BASED ON THE CPI, A DROP OF 0.53% OVER DECEMBER

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Covid -ve report must for those coming to Bengaluru from Kerala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THOSE coming in to Bengaluru from Kerala should carry a negative Covid-19 RTPCR test report, without which action will be taken against them under the Disaster Management Act, warned BBMP Commissioner N Manjunatha Prasad here on Monday.

Asking BBMP marshals to tighten their vigil, he directed all BBMP officials to work closely with resident welfare associations (RWAs) to manage Covid cases. He requested RWAs to keep a close watch on Covid cases and to report them to the authorities at the earliest.

"Aggressive testing needs to start again as cases are rising. At least 141 centres and 200 teams have been created, including the 341 testing teams that already exist. Testing will be increased to at least 34,000 a day, which is now at 20,000- 22,000. Whoever tests positive will be isolated or shifted to health centres as need be and contact tracing will also be strengthened," he said after holding a meeting with all officials from BBMP's health division and special commissioners.

> At least 141 centres and 200 teams have been created, including the 341 testing teams that exist. Testing will be increased to at least 34,000 a day
>
> N Manjunatha Prasad, BBMP Commissioner

The meeting was held after 40 students in Manjushri College and 56 people in an apartment complex in Bommanahalli zone were tested positive.

He said that a meeting will be held with RWAs soon and more precautionary measures will be taken.

On the vaccination drive, he said that of the identified 2.43 lakh frontline workers, 93,000 have been inoculated. He appealed to those who have not taken the jab to do so before February 25. The second dosage of vaccines for those who have already taken the first jab will be held in March. He directed officials to start preparing the list of beneficiaries for the third phase of the vaccination drive.

BAD START

On a pitch that came under criticism after England were bowled out for 134 in the first innings, India wanted to make a statement by batting long enough on Day 3. However, they ended up losing five wickets inside the first session

KOHLI-TY KNOCK

With Jack Leach and Moeen Ali finding enough purchase off the pitch, batting was by no means easy. Batsmen found it hard to negotiate the turn and bounce. But Virat Kohli displayed quality by playing late and stretching forward in order to defend

ASHWIN'S DAY OUT

The moment he walked in to bat, Ashwin meant business. He swept the spinners, used his feet against them and scored briskly. After scoring fifty, he quietly went about building the innings in the company of the tail. He scored 106 off 148 balls

STARING AT THE INEVITABLE

England need a miracle in the remaining two days to get something out of the contest. Chasing 482 for victory, the visitors were reeling at 53/3 in the second innings, needing 429 more runs for an improbable win | P19

AFTER DISHA, TOOLKIT HEAT ON TWO MORE ACTIVISTS

Police claim Nikita and Disha edited document created by Shantanu

GAYATHRI MANI AND SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
@ New Delhi/Mumbai

EVEN as the arrest of Bengaluru student-activist Disha Ravi in connection with Greta Thunberg toolkit case has sparked an outrage, Delhi Police are searching for two other persons, Mumbai-based lawyer Nikita Jacob and environment activist Shantanu Muluk, against whom non-bailable warrants have been obtained. The two moved Bombay High Court for transit anticipatory bail on Monday, a day after a Delhi court remanded Disha in five-day police custody. Jacob and Muluk, who is based in Delhi but hails from Maharashtra, have been identified by the Delhi Police as creators of the 'toolkit' document, along with Disha.

According to the police, both Jacob and Muluk are absconding. However, in her plea filed in the Bombay High Court, Jacob expressed apprehension that she may be arrested "due to political vendetta and a media trial" and sought transit anticipatory bail for four weeks. She also sought interim protection from any coercive steps by the police. Muluk filed a plea seeking similar relief in the Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court.

According to Delhi's Joint Commissioner of Police (Cyber Cell) Prem Nath, initial investigation revealed that Muluk's e-mail account was the owner of the toolkit that was uploaded and later deleted by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, while the others were its editors.

All three — Disha, Muluk and Jacob — have been booked for sedition, creating disharmony and ill-will against the Government of India. Briefing the media, the JCP said a Canada-based woman named Puneet connects all the accused with "pro-Khalistan" Poetic Justice Foundation' (PJF). The police said that on January 11, Jacob and Muluk attended a Zoom meeting organised by PJF in which the modalities of the protests were worked out. The toolkit was created based on that discussion. Disha later shared the toolkit with Greta Thunberg over Telegram messenger.

An enthusiastic protester

A vocal feminist, a vegan, an animal lover, a climate activist and an inspiring individual, 21-year-old Disha Ravi, who has been arrested by the Delhi Police, wants to create a world where everyone is treated equally, say her friends. Coming from a family with a history of farming, the farmer protests in Delhi hit home for her. She only wished to help farmers get their voices heard and could not have had any ulterior motives whatsoever, says one of her close friends. Most of the climate activists in Bengaluru know her as she organised and took part in every protest, her friends said. P4

Toolkit has ISI link: Cops

Delhi Police on Monday said that Disha and lawyer activist Nikita Jacob were the editors of the first Toolkit Google document, which was "accidentally" tweeted by Greta Thunberg. The email account allegedly created by another activist, Shantanu, is the owner of this document, they said. The toolkit, allegedly put together by the trio on the instructions of pro-Khalistani group Poetic Justice Foundation, mentioned Peter Friedrich, an alleged close associate of Bhajan Singh (BS) Bhinder alias Iqbal Chowdhary and proponent of Pakistan's ISI Kashmir Khalistan (K2) desk. P4

SC gives Kappan 5-day bail

THE Supreme Court on Monday laid down a set of conditions while granting a 5-day interim bail to journalist Siddique Kappan to meet his ailing mother (90). A bench headed by the CJI ordered him not to give any interview to any media platform. He was told only to meet his relatives and doctors. The conditions were set after the solicitor general argued he might use the bail period to get support. Kappan was arrested in October while going to Hathras to report on the alleged gang-rape and death of a Dalit woman. *ENS*

Panchayat prez at 88, she shows the way

G SUBHASH CHANDRA
@Chitradurga

AT 5 am every day, this 88-year-old president of Chikka Yammiganuru gram panchayat sets out to inspect the works in the village, listens to people's problems, and then visits her arecanut grove.

Fondly called 'Ajji' (grandma in Kannada), her main aim is to provide quality drinking water to Chikka Yammiganuru, Chikkanakatte, Kodagavalli, Kodagavalli Hattti, Kotehalu, Hosahalli and Aynahalli villages having a population of 7,500. She also gives importance to education, health, sanitation and lighting in these villages. Age is just a number for her. Drakshayanamma said, 'I am not aged. I have seen life ... will draw on my experiences to take the village on the path of development." P7

EXPRESS READ

3 more bodies found in Tapovan tunnel

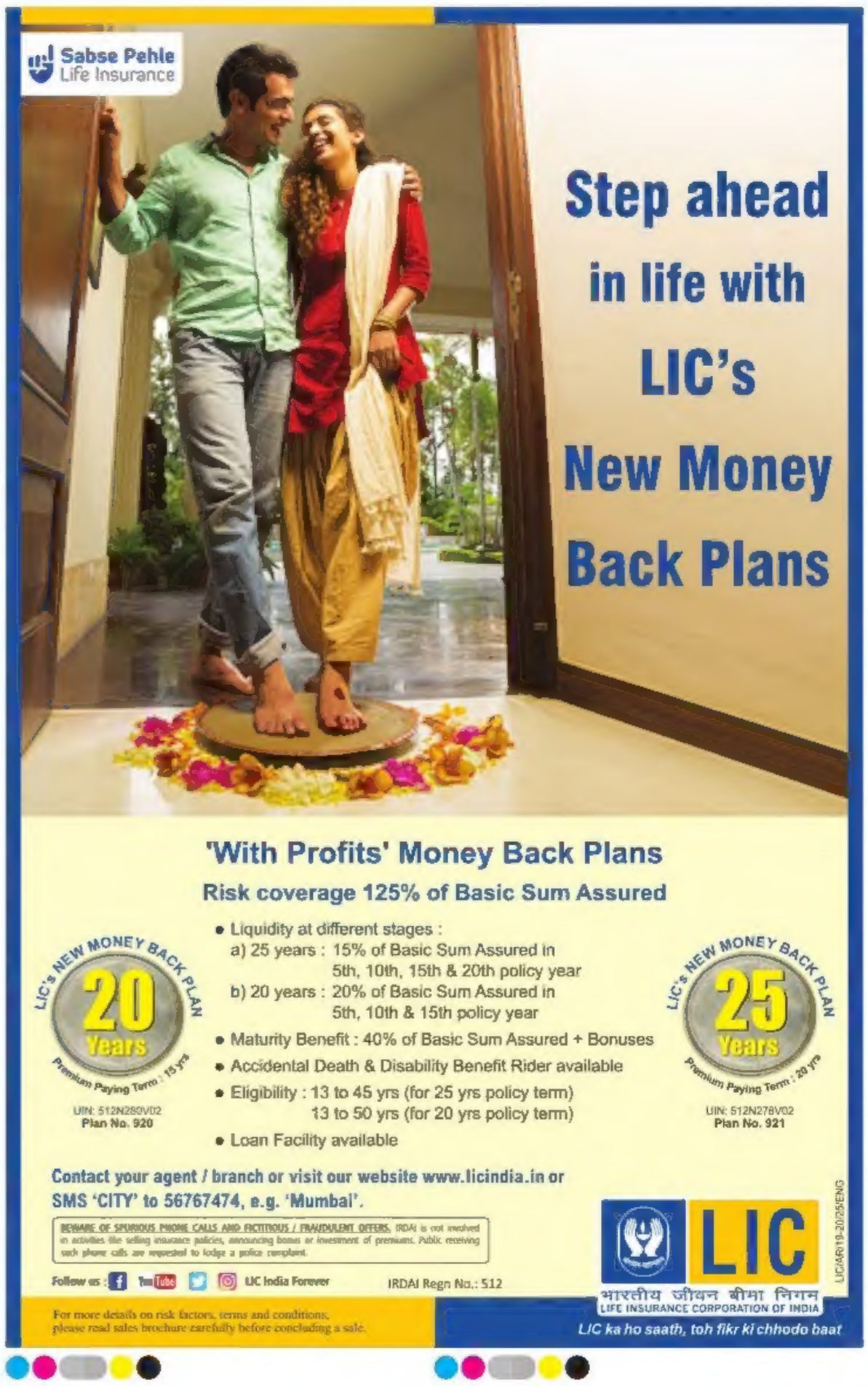
Tapovan: Three more bodies were recovered on Monday from the flood-ravaged Tapovan tunnel, taking the toll in the glacial disaster in Uttarakhand to 53. Over 150 people are still missing, officials said.

WhatsApp gets SC notice over privacy

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre and WhatsApp to reply to a fresh plea alleging lower standards of privacy for Indians in comparison to European users.

Nigerian is WTO's 1st woman head

Geneva: Nigerian economist Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala was on Monday appointed as the first female and first African head of the World Trade Organization, at a special general meeting.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